

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

University of Montana News Releases, 1928,  
1956-present

University Relations

---

9-27-1995

### UM's rural institute launches project for teaching children with severe disabilities

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases>

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you.**

---

#### Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "UM's rural institute launches project for teaching children with severe disabilities" (1995). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 13836.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/13836>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

# The University of Montana

## NEWS RELEASE

University Communications  
Missoula, MT 59812  
(406) 243-2522

---

This release is available electronically on INN (News Net).

Sept. 27, 1995

### **UM'S RURAL INSTITUTE LAUNCHES PROJECT FOR TEACHING CHILDREN WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES**

#### **MISSOULA --**

Montana's schoolchildren with severe disabilities are the prime beneficiaries of a University of Montana project recently granted \$250,000 a year for five years by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

The Caring and Responsive Rural Education project is being administered by UM's Rural Institute on Disabilities. The project aims to improve the state's capacity to teach schoolchildren with severe mental, physical, sensory or other disabilities in the regular classroom instead of channeling them into exclusively special education settings.

Project activities include training current and future teachers in educational approaches that respond to the needs of widely diverse students. The project will also support networking among schools that already include these students in the regular classroom, and it will provide small grants and technical help to schools that want to develop inclusive classroom environments.

"It's very exciting," Gail McGregor, project director, said. At inclusive schools elsewhere, she said, "Parents have seen their kids do things they never would have dreamed they could do. Kids oftentimes rise to the challenge. The challenge is figuring out how to create learning environments to allow kids to learn at lots of different levels in the context of shared activities."

The Rural Institute's partners in the project are the Office of Public Instruction; Montana

-more-

CARRE.rl -- 2

State University - Billings; and Parents, Let's Unite for Kids.

###

**Contact:** Gail McGregor, project director and an adjunct associate professor of education, 243-2446.

JJ/tb

Local, dailies and weeklies

CARRE.rl